# PLANTS TRIVIA

- Weren't any dandelions in North America before the Europeans showed up.
- Various native tribes on various continents have held that lightning bolts are godly signals, so fires they start must not be put out. Only in recent decades have foresters come to believe that natural lightning fires do more good than harm. There's wonderment again over the ancient native notions.
- No trick to control poison ivy. Goats eat it. Trick is to control the goats.
- You owe your life to lightning. Without it, plants couldn't survive. And without plants, no you.
- Would you argue the claim that a plant needs a lot more water than an animal?
- Sunflowers generate enough heat to kill the insects that attack them, according to a Dartmouth professor.
- Pokeweed is a coarse perennial herb with white flowers, purple juicy berries and poisonous roots. North American Indians used it to treat venereal disease.
- That renowned fleur-de-lis of France is actually a German iris, I've been told.
- Brand names come and go. "Darling Fanny Pan Cake" went. It was chewing tobacco.
- A Menninger clinic psychiatrist has been quoted as saying a chronic marijuana smoker has to be totally isolated from the smoke for at least three months to break the addiction. Attempts short of all-out efforts generally fail, says this expert.
- Nicotine remains in the blood stream 30 days. So if you stay off cigarettes that long, you've got the physical addiction whipped. The rest is head work. Or so says an anti-smoking specialist.
- Some trees under assault by insects communicate with nearby trees. And they raise their level of tannin. So the leaves become less tasty to the attackers. That's the claim of one authority on matters arboreal. Do you buy it? Even without further explanation?
- A plant fertilizer called "CC-84" came out in 1984. Said to be twice as potent as steer manure. But it didn't do too well on the market. Finally sellers changed the name to "Kricket Krap." Sales quadrupled.
- In Florida grows an orchid called the "Violent Stench." Its odor is so potent it makes bees sick.
- Client asks, What's the biggest family of flowering plants? That's easy. Grass. You say grass doesn't flower? Does indeed. Just quit mowing for a season. Besides, grains are grass.
- Seventy percent of the Earth's oxygen is said to come from marine plants.
- Claim is 90 percent of the world's flowers have either an unpleasant odor or no odor at all.
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